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Bill #5024: AAC Voting Rights

I, Aimee Stupak, a resident of West Hartford and an intern at the Registrars of Voters office for the City of Hartford am writing to testify in favor of Election Day Registration. I was born and raised in Connecticut and worked as a teacher in Texas for several years prior to applying to Graduate School in my home state.

As a graduate student of the UConn School of Social Work, I have first-hand experience as a young voter who has had to change her address several times. Prior to beginning my internship with the ROV, I was unaware of the requirement that one must fill-out a new registration card in-order to vote. Had I not been made aware, I wouldn't have been able to vote at my local elections on November 8th, 2011. I was under the impression that my registration was updated automatically once I notified the United States Postal Office of my relocation. If it wasn't for a discussion that I had with Urania Petit, Registrar of Voters, I would have presented myself at the polling place that day and been unable to vote.

As an intern for the City of Hartford, I learned the striking statistic that only 20% of the registered voters in the United States are aged 18-24. This is disappointing, to say the least, as voters of the youth population have the power to be extremely effective in both the influence and implementation of change for our Nation. I am confident that the representation from my age group is growing and has the potential to reach an all-time high for the upcoming presidential elections. The State of Connecticut must recognize the fact that it's younger residents are more likely to change their addresses several times throughout the course of their secondary education experience. Furthermore, the current job market demands that we be ready to relocate when an opportunity presents itself. In-order for our voices to be heard on Election Day, we must be able to take advantage of our privilege to vote on issues that matter to us.

I urge the State of Connecticut to pass HB 5024 regarding Election Day Registration.

I would also like to convey my support of online voter registration, contained in Section 11 of HB 5024, as members of the youth population are more likely to register if they have the option to do so through the use of technology.

Sincerely,

Aimee Stupak, MSW Student
UConn School of Social Work